

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 8399

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS, TW, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SALE OF HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOATS TO THE ROC

REF: STATE 278713

1. ROBERT DERECKTOR, YACHT BUILDER, ROBERT WENDT, VICE
PRESIDENT OF SPERRY GYROSCOPE, AND PROFESSOR RICHARD WALKER,
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, VISITED TAIWAN NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 3 AND
DISCUSSED WITH TDC COMMANDER, CHIEF MAAG, MND CGS
ADMIRAL SOONG CHANG-CHIH (1345/7022/1807), AND ASSISTANT
CHIEF, BUREAU OF PLANS, ROC NAVY, REAR ADMIRAL LI TSUNG-CHIEH
(2621/1350/0267) THE POSSIBLE SALE TO THE ROC NAVY OF HIGH-
SPEED PATROL BOATS.

2. DERECKTOR FIRST VISITED TAIWAN IN 1975. AT THAT TIME,
ADMIRAL SOONG, THEN ROC NAVY CINC, SUGGESTED THAT THE ROC
NAVY MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO A TOTAL PACKAGE THAT WOULD INCLUDE
A BOAT AND WEAPON SYSTEM. REPRESENTATIVES OF GRUMMAN, BOEING,
TAKOMA BOAT, AND HALTER MARINE HAVE ALSO VISITED TAIWAN IN
THE PAST TWO YEARS TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PATROL BOAT DESIGNS.

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3. THE ROC PRESENTLY HAS 42-FOOT AND 60-FOOT PATROL BOATS FOR
USE IN PREVENTING SMUGGLING. THESE VESSELS ARE INADEQUATE
FOR DEFENSIVE PATROLLING, AND IT IS THE VIEW OF BOTH TDC AND
MAAG THAT THE ROC NEEDS SOME KING OF HIGH-SPEED PATROL BOAT,
EQUIPPED WITH A SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MILILE, PREFERABLY THE
HARPOON. THEREFORE, WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO, THE ROC WILL PROBABLY

PURCHASE OR BUILD SOME KING OF NEW PATROL BOAT.

4. ALTHOUGH THE ROC HAS NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION REGARDING THE FINAL SELECTION OF THE VARIOUS BOATS UNDER CONSIDERATION, ROC OFFICERS WERE REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED BY MR. DERECKTOR'S PRESENTATION AND MAY INSPECT DERECKTER BOATS IN THE U.S. AND GREECE. (GREECE REPORTEDLY OWNS ONE DERECKTOR BOAT.)

5. WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT THE ROC WILL BE ABLE TO PURCHASE VIA FMS FROM FRANCE OR ITALY EITHER THE FORTY-KILOMETER RANGE EXOCET SURFACE-TO-SURFACE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE OR THE SIXTY-KILOMETER-RANGE OTTOMAT. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE ROC IS INTERESTED IN INDIRECT PURCHASE OF SUCH MISSILES OR HOW SUCH PURCHASE MIGHT PROCEED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PROFESSOR WALKER THAT THE WASHINGTON, D.C., SPERRY REPRESENTATIVE IS ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR OTTOMAT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUT THAT, TO DATE, CLEARANCE HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED.
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